AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A lever ring for seaming to a body ~~(20)~~ and for receiving a closure layer ~~(1)~~ affixed with an edge ~~by means of~~ portion by sealing and for bridging an inner space of the lever ring, to close the body ~~(20)~~ in a seam-connected position, wherein

(i) the lever ring comprises a continuous flat web ~~(3a, 3b, 3c)~~ which radially outwardly merges~~changes~~ into an edge rim ~~(2)~~ of the lever ring, a continuous surrounding groove ~~(N1, N2, N3)~~ extending between the edge rim and the flat web;

(ii) the flat web is suitable for ~~connecting an~~affixing the edge portion of the closure layer ~~(1)~~ by sealing, and extends at an angle ($\alpha 1$, $\alpha 2$, $\alpha 3$) differing from zero with respect to a plane of the closure layer ~~(1)~~ affixed~~, that has been connected~~ by ~~such~~ said sealing~~, at an angle ($\alpha 1$, $\alpha 2$, $\alpha 3$) differing from zero.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A lever ring for seaming to a body ~~(20)~~ and for receiving a closure layer ~~(1)~~ affixed with an edge ~~by means of~~portion thereof by sealing and for bridging an inner space of the lever ring, to close the body ~~(20)~~ in a seam-connected position, wherein

(i) the lever ring comprises a continuous flat web ~~(3a, 3b, 3c)~~ which radially outwardly ~~changes~~ continues into an edge rim ~~(2)~~ of the lever ring, a continuous groove ~~(N1, N2, N3)~~ extending between the edge rim and the flat web;

(ii) the flat web extends upwardly inclined from a horizontal plane at an angle ($\alpha 2$) differing from zero and is provided with an inner curling ~~(4)~~ on its radially inner end so that a closure layer ~~(1) affixed to it by sealing (30)~~sealed to the flat web and subjected to a pressure force (F_i) acting vertically to a plane of extension of the closure layer introduces a substantial force component (z) into a sealing ~~seam (30)~~zone, so that the force component extends in an extension direction of the sealing zone. ~~seam, upon a pressure force (F_i) acting vertically to a plane of extension of the closure layer.~~

3. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle differing from zero is between substantially 10° and substantially 90°.

4. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle ($\alpha 2$) is between substantially 40° and 60°.

5. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle ($\alpha 2$) is between substantially 25° and 35°.

6. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle ($\alpha 2$) is between substantially 80° and 90°.

7. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the angle differing from zero extends substantially vertically to the extension of the plane of the closure layer ~~(1)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein said ~~receiving~~sealing of the closure layer is a sealing of an edge portion of the closure layer ~~by a sealing strip (30) on~~in a sealing zone to the flat web ~~(3a, 3b, 3c)~~ which sealing zone~~strip~~ extends circumferentially along with the edge rim ~~(2)~~ of the lever ring.

9. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the flat web comprises radially inwards an inner curling ~~(4)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the closure layer extends over ~~on~~ the inner curling ~~(4)~~ and is deflected ~~(u)~~ so that an edge strip ~~(1b)~~ is formed, which extends at an angle differing from zero, with respect to ~~the~~ a plane of the closure layer ~~(1)~~ in the inner space ~~area~~ of the lever ring.

11. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the closure layer is formed as a membrane made of one or more materials selected from a group consisting of: plastic, sheet metal, metal foil, and compound foil.

12. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the sealing zone~~seam~~ ~~(30)~~ as a strip extending circumferentially has a substantial width ~~on the~~of extension on~~of~~ the flat web ~~(3), this~~, the width being more than half ~~the~~of a width of the flat web.

13. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the inner curling axially projects above an upper side of the lid rim ~~(2)~~ with an alignment of the flat web ~~(3a)~~ that projects steeply upwards.

14. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 2, wherein the groove ~~(N1, N2, N3)~~ is ~~of a~~ wedge-shaped ~~design~~ with a rounded bottom and is formed between a chuck wall extending towards the surrounding lid rim ~~(2)~~ and the surrounding inclined flat web, ~~(3a, 3b, 3c) that is oriented in an inclined fashion.~~

15. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle differing from zero is between substantially 10° and substantially 90°.

16. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle ($\alpha 2$) is between substantially 40° and 60°.

17. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle ($\alpha 2$) is between substantially 25° and 35°.

18. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle ($\alpha 2$) is between substantially 80° and 90°.

19. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the angle differing from zero extends substantially vertically to the extension of the plane of the closure layer ~~(1)~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein said receiving of the closure layer is a sealing of an edge of the closure layer to a circumferential ~~by a~~ sealing strip ~~(30)~~ on the flat web. ~~(3a, 3b, 3c) which sealing strip extends circumferentially.~~

21. (cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the closure layer extends over ~~on~~ the inner curling ~~(4)~~ and is thereby deflected ~~(u)~~ so that an edge strip ~~(1b)~~ is formed, which extends at an angle differing from zero, with respect to the plane of the closure layer ~~(1)~~ in the inner space ~~area~~ of the lever ring.

23. (Previously Presented) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the closure layer is formed as a membrane made of one or more materials selected from a group consisting of: plastic, sheet metal, metal foil, and compound foil.

24. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein a ~~the~~ sealing ~~seam (30) as a~~ strip extending circumferentially has a substantial width on ~~the extension of~~ the flat web ~~(3)~~, this width being more than half of a ~~the~~ width of the flat web.

25. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein an ~~the~~ inner curling at the flat web axially projects above an upper level ~~side~~ of the lid rim ~~(2)~~ with an alignment of the flat web ~~(3a) that~~ projectsing steeply upwards.

26. (Currently Amended) The lever ring according to claim 1, wherein the groove ~~(N1, N2, N3)~~ is of a wedge-shape~~d design with~~ having a rounded bottom and is formed between a chuck wall extending towards the lid rim ~~(2)~~ and the flat web ~~(3a, 3b, 3c) that is oriented in an inclined fashion.~~extending at an angle differing from zero.